

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner imposed a Restriction Requirement between three groups of claims. Applicants have elected Group II, claims 17-27. The inventions of this group are directed to a filter element.

Applicants have cancelled the unelected claims (15, 16, and 28-33). Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue these claims in further divisional applications.

Applicants have added new claims 34-39. It is submitted that each of these claims is also properly part of the inventions of Group II, drawn to a filter element.

Applicants request consideration and a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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